

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

It is just common sense that in order for freedom of speech to work in our contemporary society we need vigorous regulations of the public airways to prevent monopolies and other selfish interests from dominating. How can democracy be a living vital process if only the moneyed and powerful get their views expressed over the public airways. When this happens facism will not be far behind with the inevitable casting of the seeds of corruption and distruction of the great democratic process.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.